

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 01254 261110Z

21

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 CU-04 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

SAJ-01 OMB-01 NIC-01 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SCI-06

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5638

INFO USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 1254

DEPT. FOR EUR/SES

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL UR

SUBJECT: EXCHANGES: POLITICAL ASPECTS OF BALLET EXCHANGE

REF: STATE 15334; STATE 14234; MOSCOW 0677

1. WITH RESERVATION THAT EMBASSY HAS ONLY PARTIAL INFORMATION ON EXTENT AND DEPTH OF CURRENT ANTI-SOVIET FEELING IN U.S. CULTURAL WORLD, IT IS OUR STRONG IMPRESSION THAT A U.S. TOUR OF A MAJOR SOVIET BALLET COMPANY MUST BE REGARDED AS INFEASIBLE AS LONG AS PANOV AFFAIR REMAINS UNRESOLVED.

2. AS DATE OF PROJECTED PLISETSKAYA/BOLSHOI VISIT APPROACHES AND ORGANIZATIONAL DIFFICULTIES EMERGE, POTENTIAL FOR HARMFUL INCIDENTS AND STATEMENTS INCREASES. WE ALSO SEE POSSIBILITY OF SIDE-EFFECTS SERIOUSLY DAMAGING TO BILATERAL RELATIONS.

3. IT IS EMBASSY JUDGMENT THAT A DIRECT EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO HEAD OFF THE DEVELOPING CONFRONTATION.

4. SOVIET BEHAVIOR IN PANOV AFFAIR IS MORE THAN
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 01254 261110Z

USUALLY UNFATHOMABLE SINCE IT WOULD SEEM THEY HAVE

LITTLE TO LOSE IN FACILITATING DEPARHARE OF PANOVS.
WE SPECULATE THAT THE ADDITIONAL COMPLICATION IN
THIS AFFAIR IN SOME WAY INVOLVES LENINGRAD
SENSITIVITIES. FURTHER, WITHOUT A DIRECT APPROACH
BY US, IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT SOVIET AUTHORITIES HERE
MAY NOT FULLY REALIZE POTENTIAL FOR SERIOUS TROUBLE
NOR OUR OWN RELATIVE INABILITY TO APPLY CONTROLS TO
THE SITUATION.

5. IT IS OUR SUGGESTION THEREFORE THAT FORMAL APPROACH
BE MADE FIRST TO SOVIET EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, TO BE
FOLLOWED BY APPROACHES TO MFA AND MINCULT HERE AT
DEPUTY MINISTER LEVEL, WHEN SOVIET EMBASSY'S PRESUMED
CONFIRMATION OF U.S. SITUATION HAS HAD TIME TO BE
ABSORBED. WE SEE THESE APPROACHES AS BEING PRIMARILY
ON PROPER AND BUSINESSLIKE BASIS OF CALLING ATTENTION TO
AND URGING REMOVAL OF A DETERRENT TO DEVELOPING RELATIONS,
AND ONLY SECONDARILY ON MERITS OF CASE ITSELF.

6. DEPT. MAY ALSO WISH TO FOCUS IN THIS CONNECTION ON
FRIEDMAN MARRIAGE CASE (MOSCOW 1229) WHICH COULD BECOME
AN ADDITIONAL CAUSE CELEBRE INVOLVING KIROV. MRS. FRIEDMAN
NEE FEDICHEVA IS WELL-KNOWN IN INTERNATIONAL BALLET CIRCLES
AND DETAILS OF HER CASE, IF UNRESOLVED, WOULD ADD FUEL TO
FLAME.DUBS

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